

HERMIT COE OF THE BOWERY.

LIVED A TRAMP, BUT CARRIED ALWAYS A PACKAGE OF \$24,500 IN BILLS.

He really was John A. Baer, a tall graduate—Now He is Dead—His Only Friend and the Story of His Quietly Made Will.

John A. Haller, who was once a doctor, has of late earned his living by buying things to sell to chance dealers in the country. Eleven years ago he met an eccentric man who said his name was Leonard Con. Both were living in rooms at the New England Hotel at 30 Bowery. Coe had just come there, and soon impressed Haller with the extent of his knowledge in medicine, law, and the arts. Coe appeared despoiled, poor, and did not seem to have any business. He told Haller that he had studied law and medicine both, but given them up, and Haller called him Dr. Coe, by which name he became generally known. He was never seen in new clothes during their eleven years' acquaintance, and was always ragged and slovenly. He went out every day and generally brought back odd things he had picked up in the streets. These he stored in his room till it became a real curiosity shop. The stuff in the room was dusty, and did not tempt any one to examine it. He had huge piles of newspaper clippings, and used to be found reading most of the time. He was a woman hater, and too cranky in his manner and tramplike in habits and appearance to make friends among men. Haller took a fancy to Coe because he was so well informed and entertaining when he chose to be, and also partly through pity.

Coe paid his rent promptly, and spent a few cents each day for food. No one knew or cared where he got his money. He always carried around with him a brown paper package. This sometimes caused comment, but as the old man was so odd any way as to win the name of "Crazy Len," it was concluded that the package contained only old newspapers. He never clasped or disagreed with any one, and only got into trouble through his habit of writing on walls and windows.

So long as he stayed in his room this was all right, but when he wandered at will all over the upper part of the hotel in this condition, the management and the police complained, and all objected. Dr. Con never could be brought to see the improvidence of this conduct, though his Irish bairns frequently argued with him over it.

In April the old man was taken sick and called Haller to him. He produced the brown paper package and said he had been saving his walks for so many years and asked him to take care of it, but not to open it. Haller promised, and took the package. Coe went to St. Vincent's Hospital, and Haller, who wanted to walk the wards in the interest which made him so much trouble in the Bowery outfit, insisted. The doctors seriously advised him to give up the walk, but Coe got his rucksack back again. In June he was again taken sick. Again he intrusted the package to Haller, who took care of it, and this time it was sent to Bellevue Hospital. On June 15 he sent for Haller to come to the hospital to look the hand of his only friend, and seven days later he died.

I am going to die. My name is not Leonard Coe, though you have thought so all these years. I am John A. Baer, a man of means. When he told me he had two brothers in Lancaster, Pa., to whom he wanted to leave his possessions, he made a will, and named me as his sole executor. I am to open the brown paper package till after he was dead. Haller promised, smiling meanwhile at the exterior of a trap like "Crazy Len," to do what he could. Haller opened the package. It contained \$24,500 in gold pieces. They lay together, retaining the same of the marking that had been put on in many years, and had the indentations of the strings that bound the package.

The package was sealed. He was accustomed to handling much money, and he hastily tied the bills up again lest any one should see them in his possession. It disappeared, and Haller was compelled to go to the police. When "crazy Len" made Haller his executor he handed him a half sheet of paper upon which was a scrawled statement that his effects were to be divided between his sons, Christian and Reuben Baer, and that Haller, as executor, should get his fees out of the estate.

Haller had no time. Now he secreted the document and, and pondered for a long time as to what he ought to do. He feared that the will would be set aside. He who was the only man in the world who knew of the existence of the money or that Leonard Coe was John A. Baer. Finally, he went to see Timon, the lawyer, and the result of the will was good, and at his request they filed it for probate. Haller wrote to the brothers at Lancaster, telling them the sum sent home for burial. On Tuesday the will was probated. One of the brothers came on, and promised Haller that he would be remembered for his kindness, and not for his poverty, in addition to his fees of \$400 as executor.

Yesterday Haller said that from an examination of the hermit papers he had learned that he was a graduate of Princeton University. When "crazy Len" made Haller his executor he handed him a half sheet of paper upon which was a scrawled statement that his effects were to be divided between his sons, Christian and Reuben Baer, and that Haller, as executor, should get his fees out of the estate. Haller had no time. Now he secreted the document and, and pondered for a long time as to what he ought to do. He feared that the will would be set aside. He who was the only man in the world who knew of the existence of the money or that Leonard Coe was John A. Baer. Finally, he went to see Timon, the lawyer, and the result of the will was good, and at his request they filed it for probate. Haller wrote to the brothers at Lancaster, telling them the sum sent home for burial. On Tuesday the will was probated. One of the brothers came on, and promised Haller that he would be remembered for his kindness, and not for his poverty, in addition to his fees of \$400 as executor.

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The CHARGES AGAINST THE FINANCE

An Officer who Gave Testimony Against his Superiors Summarily Discharged.

A Common Story of the Streets Assumes Big Police Court Proposition.

Arthur J. Hartford, the well-dressed and athletic English man who was arrested Thursday night by the active Sergeant Hanley of Inspector Byrne's staff on Mrs. Cora Friedley's complaint that he had impersonated an officer and tried to intimidate her into accompanying him to a hotel, was held for trial at Jefferson Market Court yesterday. The hearing that Justice Gorham gave the case made it apparent that there is more behind the arrest than either party wants to reveal. Hartford is held for a competency hearing in the manufacture of forged bills, and he has an office on the floor of Temple Court. He stops at the Morton Hotel.

He is 32 years old.

Mrs. Friedley came to court in a snug-fitting gray walking suit. She told the Justice that Hartford had threatened her in the street. He met her first on Broadway, near Fourteenth street, and spoke with her, saying that he had met her during Comptons, and she had no right to him. She then said to him: "You're a scoundrel, and I'm going to sue you for damages."

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The Law Will Not Part Them.

Justice Cullen has decided that the runaway marriage of Miss Johanna B. Cuyck, the pretty 17-year-old daughter of Walter A. Cuyck, and Charles W. Florence, her father's butler, was valid. The parties were well again in the presence of the Commissioner of Vital Statistics, and he declared that she loved her husband better. The market end of the day's operations was a trifling in sympathy with a slight better feeling at Hayne's, sales of 27,750 bags, closing at \$10.40.

Fridays, July 13, 19.

To-day's stock market showed a renewal of the effort of the professional traders to depress values. It also suffered a shrinkage in activity, possibly because there was no rally similar to that which attended the late dealings yesterday. Full rail was given to the bears and they ran their course almost uninterruptedly to the end. It is somewhat surprising, however, that so much prominence was allowed to one particular room operator. The pretexts for to-day's declines were the additional engagements of gold for export and the postponement of the advance in eastbound grain rates beyond July 22, the date originally fixed. It was not known until after the close that the advance had been ordered to go into effect at the instance of Capt. Baker, the regular commander of the vessel, and that the market opened unchanged, but then broke sharply to 94%, but afterward rallied to the opening price.

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